

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2002, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by March 17, 2003.

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to as containing multiple paragraphs. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FR 559354A to Sekutowicz. The Office Action also states that Sekutowicz discloses the fluid is an oil, as defined in claim 7, although there is no rejection of claim 7 specifically stated in the Office Action. Claims 2-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekutowicz in view of JP 09263864A to Tetsuzo.

Turning first to the objection to the abstract, the abstract has been amended to combine the two paragraphs into a single paragraph and to delete reference to the "sole figure".

With regard to the substantive rejections of the claims, the Applicants respectfully disagree that the cited reference and reference combination discloses or makes obvious the present invention. Specifically, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Sekutowicz.

A critical feature of the present invention, as defined in claim 1, is the circulating coolant of the electric machine. The coolant of the present invention is a mixture of liquid and gas, that is, an aerosol.

In contrast, Sekutowicz neither discloses nor suggest using an aerosol as a coolant for the electric machine. Rather, the reference sign (f) in Sekutowicz designates an isolating liquid (an oil) with which the internal volume of the machine is filled up. The internal volume is connected with an external cooler (n) via joints (o, p).

A small volume (g), shown in Sekutowicz's Figure 1, serves as a balance reservoir in the vent of an increasing volume of the oil-filling at higher temperatures.

Therefore, claim 1 cannot be seen as being anticipated by Sekutowicz, since claim 1 specifically defines that the cooling medium is a fluid/gas mixture, or an aerosol, which Sekutowicz teaches away from the present invention by specifically disclosing the use of an isolating liquid, an oil.

Likewise, the cited combination of the Sekutowicz and Tetsuzo patents does not render obvious the present invention as defined in claims 2-6. If the practitioner were to combine these references, he/she still would be provided with no teaching or suggestion from either reference of using an aerosol, that is, a fluid/gas mixture, as a coolant. Rather, the cited reference combination still teaches the use of an isolating liquid, or an oil. Therefore, the present invention as defined in claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1, is not obvious over the cited reference combination.

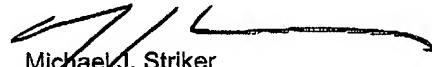
For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-7 are patentable over the art of record. The Applicants further request

withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 and reconsideration of the application as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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